

"MY MISSION is to leave the earth a better place than I found it"—The Baby.

The Topeka State Journal

TOPEKA, KANSAS, THURSDAY EVENING, MARCH 9, 1916—TEN PAGES

A FEW vigorous enemies are valuable assets for any man to have.

THIS EDITION 20 CENTS

POSTSCRIPT

WOULD BE EASY TO SEND TO MEXICO

Senator Fall Would Avenge Villa's Murderous Raid On American Town Early This Morning

GEN. VILLA MASSACRES AMERICANS IN U.S. CITY

Sixteen Civilians and Soldiers Slain; Town Pillaged.

Rebel Leader Heads Band of Nearly 1,000.

RAID COLUMBUS, N. M., 4 A. M.

Finally Driven Out by Three Companies U. S. Soldiers.

Residents Ruthlessly Slain as They Flee Homes.

BURN PRINCIPAL BUILDINGS

Husbands Murdered as Wives Plead for Lives.

All Houses in Border Town Riddled by Bullets.

DEAD.
A. L. RITCHIE, hotel proprietor.
W. R. WALKER, Plains, N. M. guest.
Central hotel.
WALTER WALKER, United States customs rider.
MILTON JAMES.
MRS. MILTON JAMES.
J. S. DEAN.
FRANK MILLER, druggist.
J. J. MOORE, merchant.
UNIDENTIFIED CHAUFFEUR.
SOLDIER KILLED.
FRANK KENDALL, horse-shoer, troop K.
SERGEANT MARG A. DOBB, machine gun troop.
CORPORAL PAUL SIMON.
SERGEANT JOHN NIEVERGELT, band.
CORPORAL HARRY WISWALL, troop G.
FRED A. GRIFFIN, private, troop K.
THOMAS BUTLER, troop F.
WOUNDED SOLDIER.
JESSE F. TAYLOR, troop F.
THEODORE KALZORKE, troop L.
MICHAEL RAMAZZELI, machine gun troop.
JOHN YARROGHOFF, troop K.
JAMES YENNER, troop M.
JOHN KROGH, troop G.
LT. C. C. BENSON, troop G.

Columbus, N. M., March 9.—Sixteen Americans were killed by Villa bandits variously estimated from 500 to 1,000, in number, who swooped down on this town in the darkness early today and were driven off only after nearly two hours fighting with 300 United States cavalrymen.

Thirty or forty Villistas were killed or wounded, it is estimated. Five American civilians and eight soldiers were wounded.

Aroused from sleep by the sudden onrush of the Mexicans, firing into the stores and houses, seven American troopers and nine civilians, including one woman, were killed before the Villistas were finally driven across the border three miles below Columbus.

Report Bodies in Ruins.

Turning out that several guests died in the Commercial hotel when the Mexicans applied the torch are not credited, although the ruins are being carefully searched for traces of bodies.

Mrs. Gean, wife of James Gean, a leading merchant, was shot down in cold blood beside her husband who was also killed in defense of his home.

Only the desperate bravery of the outnumbered American soldiers prevented a massacre greater than the slaughter of eighteen helpless Americans at Santa Ysabel, Mexico, January 15, 1915.

Entering Columbus under cover of darkness, protected by a ditch, the Villistas suddenly dashed into the heart of the town, shrieking war cries and shooting into houses.

Squads evidently detailed for the purpose, threw oil on several buildings and applied the torch. Snipers picked off civilians as they left their homes.

The firing grew into a pitched battle as soon as the American soldiers could gather for the attack.

Col. H. J. Slocum speedily brought the Thirtieth cavalry into action and shortly after 6 o'clock drove the raiders across the border.

Information that Francisco Villa and his chief lieutenant, Pablo Lopez, were in personal command of the raid was given Colonel Slocum by a Mexican raider captured by the Thirtieth Sunday and who escaped

MURDERER-BANDIT



Francisco Villa.

during the fighting. He told of the hanging of the American ranchers McKinney, Corbett and O'Neal, and declared that a fourth American, whose name he did not know, had been hanged at the same time. The Mexican informant said Villa attacked with from 500 to 1,000 men and machine gun platoons.

"Traveling north they crossed the boundary west of Columbus," said the Mexican, "and entered town by a ditch running past the cavalry camp. Villa was in personal charge and declared he was going to kill every American because the American government did not treat him right. Villa declared Carranza could not make peace in Mexico. With Villa were Pablo Lopez, Martin Lopez, Col. Candelario Serrano, Col. Cruz Chavez, Gen. Jose Fernandez and General Beltrán."

The Mexican confirmed a report previously sent by Carranza officials that before leaving the Santa Ana district in western Chihuahua, Villa had freely stated that he intended to force intervention by the United States by raiding American territory and killing everybody in sight.

"The Mexican fugitive said that Villa addressed the men yesterday just before ordering an advance on Columbus. According to the Mexican's account Villa declared the watchword would be 'death to Americans' and added that the killing of Americans was ordered because citizens of the United States were responsible for the wretched condition of Mexico."

"The United States intends to swallow Mexico," Villa shouted, "and we will fight to the death to keep it free. Let us do what we can to make it stick in their throats."

Lieut. Clyde Ely, with twenty men of the New Mexican National guard arrived from Deming today and joined the federal troops.

Attack a Surprise.

The attack was a complete surprise. Villa, according to the Mexican, was dispatched a telegram to Hachita, N. M., last night, saying he was at the Columbus ranch in Chihuahua, near the border, at least 40 miles from Columbus. The telegram was signed ostensibly by the American caretaker of the ranch and was personally sent to the ranch house.

All the while, however, the Mexican bandits had been quietly moving westward from Bosques Grandes ranch, about six miles directly south, below here. Col. H. J. Slocum, commanding the Thirtieth cavalry, has been patrolling with two troops at Gibson's ranch, 15 miles west.

Carranza customs guards at the border gates, three miles south of Columbus, had been ordered to keep the fifty Carranza soldiers who fled from Palomas when Villa appeared in the vicinity several days ago.

Mr. and Mrs. Milton James and J. S. Dean, merchant, were later added to the list of Americans killed.

Barricaded Families.

Houses throughout the town were riddled with bullets. Riggs, his wife and two children in the living quarters of the customs house barricaded themselves behind mattresses. L. Jager and his wife and two children of the Hoover hotel across the street.

In the section house near by, Foreman S. H. McCullough and his wife and four children sought safety on the floor. Bullets flew over their heads.

Druggist Shot Dead.

C. C. Miller was shot dead as he dashed from his drug store to the Hoover hotel across the street.

A woman, dragging a little girl by the hand, was wounded and stumbled over the drugstore body. Snipers posted in front of frame buildings which had been set on fire shot at the Americans as they sought refuge from the flames.

The lighting of lamps by householders had not given aid to the sleep by the rifle fire, promptly brought a shower of bullets. Every house in Columbus and almost every window appeared to have been hit from one to a dozen times.

Civilians armed themselves and from sanctuaries fought with their homes answered the shots of the Mexicans. Some of the bandits sought to entice Americans out into the streets by speaking English.

A Mexican who spoke excellent English called to him, "Come out here," and he was shot in the back as he came forward.

At the same time another American shouted: "Hey, who are you?" "Vive Villa," was the reply. Killed Half Dozen Bandits. "I don't know who he is," the

GERMANS GAIN BIG FORTRESS

French Center Smashed by the Crown Prince Today.

Most Important Advance Since Great Drive.

TWO FORTS IN TEUTON HANDS

Verdun Protection Is Weakening Every Hour.

Positions on Goose Hill Are Now in Danger.

London, March 9.—Breaking out in a sudden smash against the French center, German troops have captured Fort Du Vaux, five miles northeast of Verdun, the village of Vaux adjoining and other positions, according to official Berlin dispatches this afternoon.

The Berlin official statement also reported important gains in a renewal of the drive on the west bank of the Meuse. The French have been cleared from Corbeaux woods, the German war office announced, the German gains imperiling the strongly fortified French positions on Goose hill northwest of the city.

Two in German Hands.

Two of the Verdun forts protecting the city from the east are now in German hands, according to Berlin. Brandenburgers stormed and captured Fort Douaumont several days ago. Posen reservists it was officially announced in Berlin, drove the French from the armored fort of De Vaux, two miles southeast of Douaumont in a fierce battle last night.

Two other French forts next in line south of Verdun are reported already badly damaged by heavy German howitzers. The capture of De Vaux places the French Fort De Tavanne, two miles to the southwest, in a dangerous position.

The German gains announced in Berlin today are the most important won by the crown prince since the early days of the assault against the fortress. Berlin reports, however, are not confirmed in dispatches from the Paris war office. For several days, howitzer fire has been heard from the German war office in reporting events around Verdun.

War Minister Invokes Mohammed.

Amsterdam, March 9.—A dispatch from Constantinople via Berlin says that the Turkish minister of war, Pasha, the Turkish minister of war, accompanied by Djemal Pasha, commander of the Turkish forces in Syria and other Turkish officers, arrived in Medina, the "prophet's city" in Arabia and that they paid a visit to the tomb of Mohammed.

French Repulse Attack.

Paris, March 9.—On the Verdun sector west of the Meuse the French have repulsed repeated attacks on the village of Bethincourt, according to semi-official statements made here today.

Call Married Men.

London, March 9.—The newspapers announce this morning that the proclamation will be issued next week calling to the colors married men between the ages of 27 and 35.

WEATHER IS SETTLED

A Continuation of Existing Conditions Is the Government's Forecast.

Rain and snow, measuring 1.4 of an inch fell last night, and this morning the sidewalks and pavements were slippery though they did not freeze. The lowest temperature was 22 degrees.

The wind is still in the southwest. The sky was clear this morning, and the weather is expected to remain about the same for a few days at least.

The forecast calls for fair weather tonight and Friday; not much change in temperature. The shipper's forecast indicates temperatures of about 32 degrees for 36 hour shipments in all directions. The lowest reading at Topeka tonight will be slightly lower than that of last night.

This morning's reading was 4 degrees above normal. The mercury was expected to go near 50 degrees this afternoon, and to about the same point tomorrow. The high record for this date is 73 degrees. The lowest temperature ever recorded on March 9 was 3 degrees above zero in 1891.

The stage today being 7.1 feet, two-tenths of a foot higher than on Wednesday.

Temperatures today averaged 7 degrees above normal. Following are hourly readings for the day furnished by the weather bureau:

7 o'clock.....22	11 o'clock.....48
8 o'clock.....34	12 o'clock.....51
9 o'clock.....49	1 o'clock.....55
10 o'clock.....44	2 o'clock.....59

Piano at Bargain.

Customer near Topeka, Kansas, is unable to finish payments on piano contract. We will turn piano over to first satisfactory party who will pay balance either cash or five dollars per month. Write Schmoller & Mueller Piano Co., Omaha, Neb.—Adv.

BULLETIN!

Washington, March 9.—The Mexican question broke out in congress late today. Senator Fall of New Mexico announced that he had prepared a resolution to authorize recruiting of an army of 500,000 to intervene in Mexico and aid the existing authorities in stamping out brigandage while in the house Representative Mondell, Republican of Wyoming, started debate with a speech attacking the administration's Mexican policy.

VILLA LED HIS MEN.

A dispatch from General Pershing forwarded to the war department late today through General Funston states definitely that the Mexican raiders were commanded by Villa, personally.

Washington, March 9.—General Pershing in a report filed late this afternoon, says: "Slocum reports by telephone and asks me to repeat that Villa himself led the charge through camp with a force estimated at from 500 to 1,000 men. Eleven Mexicans were killed in camp and 23 altogether so far."

MOVE TO TOPEKA MORE OUTRAGES

Secret Conference Discloses Rock Island Plan.

Make This City Secondary General Headquarters.

Following a conference of officials of the Rock Island Lines in Topeka the first of the week it is known in railway circles today that a plan is on foot to make Topeka next in importance to Chicago in general office authority. The conference gave birth to a proposition whereby many general offices of the line may be concentrated here before June.

If the plan meets with general approval from the officials with direct authority, the Rock Island will construct a new building in this city to be occupied exclusively by offices moved here from other points on the system.

The argument brought out at the Topeka conference was to the effect that the Rock Island line, which is the center of the western and central districts of the Rock Island Lines, Chicago, now the head of all Rock Island authority, is far away from the western terminals in Denver and El Paso and Galveston. Many offices could be consolidated here with greater efficiency and at less expense. It was pointed out.

Fill Up the Vacancy.

Ever since the Rock Island moved the office of general manager and subsidiary offices from this city several months ago, there has been a vacancy here at a "fitting substitute."

Tumors directly from Chicago in the last week state that the Rock Island force would be moved to this city. Indications recently have pointed to the Rock Island line, from the office in Topeka early in the week, however, brought out still another chance for additional offices.

It has been known for some time that the offices of the Rock Island line in Chicago were a tremendous expense to the company, and that the line, with its long distance terminals, limited space and long distance terminals, was making certain departments too expensive in the "Windy City."

Topeka, a much smaller city, with cheaper rentals and grounds and with every accessibility to the western districts of the line, forms an ideal location, according to the newly formulated plan.

One Dutch trawler is quoted as having made the following report: "During the recent air raid on England, a dash for English waters. The Zeppelin, however, made certain discoveries regarding the watchfulness of the British fleet and the German squadron hastily withdrew."

Appeals in suits against the Eagles and Elks lodges in Montgomery county were filed today before the state supreme court. Efforts to secure injunctions against the lodges failed when the cases were tried before the Montgomery county district court and the state has appealed its cases to the supreme court.

Two Eagles lodges and two Elks lodges in Caney, Midland and Independence, were under fire by the state supreme court. Both the Eagles and Elks lodges in Caney were cited by the state in suits for injunctions against the lodges in Midland and the Elks lodge in Independence were also charged with violation of the liquor law. In all of the four cases it was charged that the state that common drinking was permitted in the club rooms and permanent injunctions were asked.

When the case was tried before Judge Flannelley, the evidence was held to be insufficient and judgments were entered for the defendants. The state, however, contended that the law had been violated and today took the cases before the state supreme court.

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CONSIDER MEXICAN INVASION

News of Columbus Massacre Inflames Washington.

Senators Declare U. S. Must Strike at Once.

WILSON APPALLED BY REPORT

Funston Investigating Officially for Government.

Cite Precedents of Rights to Cross Border.

Secretary Lansing announced late today that the United States was considering asking General Carranza permission to send American troops into Mexico to capture the Villa bandits who raided Columbus, N. M.

Washington, March 9.—Faced by a new crisis in Mexican affairs by the Columbus massacre, administration officials admitted that President Wilson might find it difficult to refrain longer from actual interference.

What administration leaders who favor a watchful waiting course fear most is an outbreak in congress with its consequent effect upon the country. The senate, particularly, which contains many vigorous critics of the president's Mexican policy, has just settled down from the flurry over the Cud massacre of several weeks ago.

At the White House the only word given was that the state would be taken to punish the Villa bandits, but it was not indicated whether General Carranza would be called upon to do so, or whether American troops would be sent over the line.

Lansing to Carranza.

The memorandum is being prepared with a view to its dispatch in case Secretary Lansing decided to present the case to General Carranza. It probably will be drafted along lines similar to the communication sent Carranza on the Santa Isabel massacre, but because of the more serious aspect of the present incident probably will be firmer than the previous one.

It is stated unofficially that General Carranza, with a large force, already in the hands of the Carranza government, is being sent to the border.

Washington, March 9.—First reports of the Mexican raid on Columbus, N. M., have been received at the White House while President Wilson was having his first conference with Newton D. Baker, the new secretary of war. Officials admitted that the raid put a very serious aspect on the Mexican situation.

While the policy of the administration so far has been to look to the Carranza forces to deal with the bandits, some officials declared today that it was a grave question whether such a raid as that on Columbus, was not sufficient evidence of the inability of the Carranza government to deal with the situation to warrant sending American troops over the line.

New Agitation.

The raid started a new agitation in congress, where those who have opposed the administration's Mexican policy openly charged that the attacks were proof of their repeated declarations that the Carranza government was impotent to deal with the situation and a fulfillment of their predictions that another outrage like the recent Cud massacre in which sixteen or more Americans were killed by Villa bandits when they held up a train, was only a question of time.

After the president and Mr. Baker had discussed the reports briefly, the president decided that the new secretary of war should take office at once. He signed the commission and Mr. Baker went to be sworn in.

One of the probable courses most discussed in official circles was to send American troops over the line to clean out the bandits.

It was pointed out that such action could be taken with a declaration that there was no intention to impair the sovereignty of Mexico or purpose of occupation of territory, but simply to deal with a situation menacing to the American border over which the Carranza government evidently had no control.

Can Troopers Cross?

There is some conflict of opinion regarding the authority in the war department to send troops into a foreign country without the consent of congress. Those who doubt the authority of the president to send troops may say without further authority would be to repel Mexican marauders by fire.

However, content that the constitution vests the president with authority to repel invasion and that authority they say includes the power to send troops over the line. They point out that in 1857 Secretary McCarty of the war department instructed General Urd, commander in the border, to notify the Mexican authorities if they were unable to suppress disorders which menaced the American border.

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Plucks \$5 Bill Out Bird Nest and Pays Fine

Hammond, Ind., March 9.—Frank Fitzhugh of Chesterton, Ind., reflecting in a police jail cell after two days' fling along the pay white way, wondering how he was going to pay a dollar fine when he spied a robin's nest in a tree within arm's length of the cell window. Reaching out he snatched the robin away and picked a \$5 bill from the nest, summoned the jailer, paid his fine and went home.

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